



Daily Report

West Europe

FBIS-WEU-96-062

Friday

29 March 1996

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MI5 currently devotes 20% of its core intelligence resources to Russian counter-intelligence. Its main activity now is leading the intelligence effort against Irish republican terrorism on the British mainland which occupies just under 40% of its resources.

While the committee endorsed the switch in emphasis in its report, it noted that MI5 had been forced to reinstate some of its resources deployed against the Russians because of the renewed threat.

The MI5 report also disclosed that the ending of the Cold War had enabled it to forge links with the security and intelligence services in a number of former Soviet bloc countries.

"These new relationships have also allowed the exchange of information on subjects of shared concern, such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," it said.

UK: Clarke Outlines Risks of Staying Outside Single Currency

MS2903101296 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 29 Mar 96 p 12

[Article by Gillian Tett: "Clarke Warns of Investment Loss If EMU Rejected"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UK risks losing foreign investment if it stays outside a strong European single currency, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor, warned yesterday.

If investors decided that the single currency area was a more stable economic region, they would choose to build factories there instead of the UK, Mr Clarke said.

His comments came as he presented a robust defence of his "wait and see" position about membership of a single currency. In recent weeks Mr Clarke has become increasingly isolated in the cabinet over his opposition to a referendum on the single currency. However, yesterday he insisted that "it would be a terrible mistake" to rule out membership of a single currency block.

He told the House of Lords committee on monetary union that he was not in favour of monetary union "come what may" but staying out could carry risks. One of the risks was that foreign investors might choose to invest in a single currency block if that looked more stable.

The possibility that the UK would conclusively rule out membership of a single currency was an issue which "worried people investing in the UK," he warned.

A second risk of staying outside was that it might lead to discrimination within Europe. Any calls for new protective trade barriers against weak currency areas—such as those recently heard from some French industrialists—would be highly illegal. However, there was a risk that countries outside a single currency area could lose political influence a threat that he intended to fight.

Meanwhile, the question of how a future European central bank would guard the interests of those outside a single currency area was extremely important, and hitherto unresolved.

Mr Clarke insisted that it was too early to tell when or if monetary union would happen. However, he stressed that the Maastricht criterion should be applied strictly.

Nevertheless, his comments came amid fresh doubts about whether the UK will meet its Maastricht criterion on government debt.

The Central Statistical Office yesterday said that government deficit as a proportion of gross domestic product was 6 per cent last year higher than expected, and above the Maastricht criterion of 3 per cent.

Mr Clarke's comments about the relationship between those inside and outside a single currency came as the UK prepares to take part in a key meeting of finance ministers in Verona, Italy, next month. The meeting is expected to discuss this in detail, following calls from Mr John Major, the UK prime minister, for a study on this issue.

UK: Sinn Fein Conference Announces New Leadership Lineup

MS2703125596 (Internet) Sinn Fein WWW in English 27 Mar 96

[New leadership lineup as presented by the Sinn Fein Annual Conference 23-24 Mar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sinn Fein Ard Fheis 1996, 23-24 March 1996 New Ard Chomhairle [National Executive] President: Gerry Adams; Vice President: Pat Doherty; General Secretary: Lucilla Bhreatnach; Publicity: Rita O'Hare; Treasurer: Joe Cahill; Treasurer: Dessie Macken; Chairperson: Mitchell McLaughlin;

Ard Chomhairle Members: Jim Gibney; Pamela Kane; Sean McManus; Martin McGuinness; Dodie McGuinness; Alex Maskey; Francie Molloy; Pat Treanor; Caoimhghin O'Caolain; Co-options will take place at a later date.

Germany: PKK Leader Threatens Suicide Missions

LD2803193796 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1821 GMT 28 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Munich (DDP/ADN)—Abdallah Ocalan, general secretary of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), has threatened massive terrorist attacks in Germany should the German Government continue to support "the Turkish genocide of Kurds." In an interview with SUEDDUETSCHER ZEITUNG (Friday edition), the PKK leader refused to rule out attacks on German vacationers in Turkey and even suicide missions in Germany. Through its military aid for Turkey and its uncompromising action against Turkish Kurds in Germany, Bonn is largely to blame for the genocide in the Kurdish regions of Turkey. If the justice authorities and police in Germany continued their tough action against the representatives of Kurds then the Federal Republic will become the PKK's second enemy, Ocalan said.

Faced with the continuing war in Kurdistan the PKK will have to change radically its strategy and adopt the use of suicide commandos if the Turkish Government fails to seek a dialogue, Ocalan emphasized. The focus will be on attacks in Turkey's tourist regions. "German vacationers will probably be the main victims. This is unavoidable given the present war situation." Ocalan pointedly refused to rule out suicide attacks in the Turkish heartland and even in the Federal Republic. "Until now my guerrilla fighters did not know how to die—they are learning it now. Every Kurd will become a living bomb," the PKK leader said. He was convinced as never before that he will have to continue the war against Ankara by every means. The things the PKK is going to do with its new strategy "will eclipse the PLO by far."

The violent clashes between Kurds living in Germany and German police during the "Nevruz" (New Year) celebrations on 21 March, were "provoked by the German side," Ocalan said. Regarding the latest offer by new Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz for a political dialogue and a nonmilitary solution to the Kurdish conflict, the PKK leader said he thought this was a mere tactical offer. "So far every new Turkish Government has made such an offer without becoming more specific." If Yilmaz really wants dialogue then he will have to talk to the PKK.

Germany: Foreigners To Be Expelled for Breach of Peace

LD2703135596 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1320 GMT 27 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bonn (DDP/ADN)—The German Government has agreed to tougher measures against foreigners involved in violence following the recent wave of riots by Kurds in Germany. German Interior Minister Manfred Kanther said in Bonn this afternoon that any foreigner guilty of a serious breach of the peace would in future would "automatically" be expelled. If riots occurred despite a demonstration having been banned, ordinary breach of the peace would also lead to automatic expulsion, he said. [passage omitted]

Kanther said there had been broad agreement within the coalition for a need to take action in light of the recent wave of violence by the banned PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party]. He said the government was not prepared to accept rioting by violent foreigners on German streets. Criminal foreigners could not be allowed to remain in the country, he said.

Germany: U.S. Said To Interfere in Relations With Iran

AU2803135896 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER
ALLGEMEINE in German 28 Mar 96 pp 1-2

[Report by "ulf.": "Controversy Over West's Attitude Toward Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Frankfurt, 27 March—A few days before a trip of the so-called EU troika to Tehran, the United States is obviously trying to win the support of—notably—Germany for an American-European opposition front to the regime in Tehran. Strictly confidential documents from the Federal Chancellor's Office and the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) about Iranian terrorist activities in Germany have been made available to FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE from Washington. The authenticity of these documents was confirmed on Wednesday [27 March]. Some of the documents are directly related to the "Mykonos" trial in Berlin, which deals with the murder of three Kurdish politicians from Iran and an interpreter. The mysterious passing on of the documents was linked to the request to "report about the secret machinations of the Iranian Embassy in Bonn" before the trip of the EU troika, and to intervene in order to end trade between the two countries. Early next week, the foreign ministers of Ireland, Italy, and Spain will visit Tehran and ask President Rafsanjani for a clear condemnation of international terrorism. If Rafsanjani refuses to distance himself clearly enough from the attacks in Israel, the EU will threaten to end its "critical dialogue" with

Germany: Defense Budget Faces DM2 Billion Cuts

AU2603170896 Hamburg WELT AM SONNTAG
in German 24 Mar 96 p 4

[Article by Michael J. Inacker: "Bundeswehr Facing Cuts—Up to DM2 Billion?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn—In the current and next fiscal year, the Bundeswehr will have to expect further drastic cuts of billions of German marks [DM].

This is raising the question whether the Bundeswehr plan for a new structure and different equipment of the armed forces, which was adopted only a few weeks ago, can be implemented without any reductions. According to information received by WELT AM SONNTAG from government sources in Bonn, the Finance Ministry, in internal papers, already pointed to the necessity of drastic cuts in the defense and transport budgets.

The cuts are said to amount to DM1-2 billion. It is seen as certain that the untouchability of the defense budget, which was agreed last year between Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Finance Minister Theo Waigel, and Defense Minister Volker Ruehe, will be canceled again.

Sources from the Finance Ministry have stated that due to the high budget deficit, the Bundeswehr must expect cuts at least as high as those at the beginning of 1994, when the Defense Ministry had to provide DM1.25 billion to cover a DM5-billion deficit.

Since the 1996 budget deficit is even higher than the one in 1994, first internal calculations in the Defense Ministry even fear that the Bundeswehr must expect budget cuts of up to DM2 billion "or more." Even now, signs indicate that the total costs of the Bosnia mission of DM700 million earmarked for this year will have to come from the defense budget alone. So far, the Defense Ministry was only expected to provide DM400 million, while the remaining DM300 million were to come under a special item from the general budget.

It has been said that further cuts have to be expected for the 1997 budget. In first talks on the 1997 budget, Waigel's Finance Ministry already indicated that the promised budget ceiling of DM48.4 billion can no longer be kept. Here, too, Defense Ministry experts expect cuts of up to DM2 billion.

Sources from the Defense Ministry have stated that cuts of DM3-4 billion in 1996 and 1997 will no longer allow the ministry to fulfill the material and equipment planning concept, which was only adopted in September 1995, as well as the Bundeswehr plan, which is applicable from 1996 to 1998. This will affect several major acquisitions such as the planned new frigates, the "Eurofighter," helicopter gunships, but also soldiers'

personal equipment. Christian Democratic Union [CDU] deputies of the Defense Working Group have voiced the fear that this development might again challenge the stability and planning security of the Bundeswehr, which was difficult to regain.

Defense Minister Volker Ruehe (CDU) is obviously aware of these consequences. Although he was reprimanded by the chancellor, he also fought in public for his budget and the major armament projects, which now have to be decided. Despite the budget freeze imposed by Waigel, Ruehe requested the release of the first DM220 million for three new frigates. Ruehe also made it clear in public that no extra money was available from his budget, which led to a dispute with Waigel earlier this week. Chancellor Kohl took the side of the finance minister and said in the Cabinet that Ruehe must solve his problems together with Waigel, and that there were no exceptional regulations.

Germany: BDI's Henkel Criticizes Chirac's Initiative

AU2803164196 Berlin DIE WELT in German
28 Mar 96 p 11

[Article by Christian Von Hiller: "No to European Social Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] French President Jacques Chirac's European employment initiative is encountering heated resistance from German industry. "I consider this idea extremely dangerous," Hans-Olaf Henkel, president of the Association of German Industry [BDI], told DIE WELT. "Employment policy must remain the responsibility of the individual countries. These should improve their framework conditions to encourage growth, investments, and employment."

Chirac wrote in the Paris daily LIBERATION on Monday that it is time to establish a genuinely social model for Europe. He said that the community has a budget of approximately 150 billion marks. "This is an effective tool for growth in employment," Chirac wrote in his article, thus indirectly contradicting the suggestions of the reflection group centered on Spanish Foreign Minister Carlos Westendorp. In a working paper for the EU government conference starting in Turin on Friday, Westendorp has rejected the idea of employment programs financed by credits, saying that employment in Europe can be boosted chiefly by means of better competitiveness within the member countries.

Henkel supports this method. "The EU countries must improve the framework conditions, after which the investments will flow in virtually automatically," he claims. "The example of Portugal shows that this is true."

France: FM Spokesman on China, Washington Meeting

BR2903095096 (Internet) French Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in French 28 Mar 96

[Daily press briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt to unidentified journalists at the Foreign Ministry in Paris on 28 March]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

France-China

[Journalist] Can you provide some information about Mr. Li Peng's scheduled visit to France?

[Rummelhardt] It is a little too early to talk about it. It will take place in 10 days. However, I will remind you that Mr. Li Peng is prime minister. Consequently, the prime minister's press service will release statements in due time. We are ready to supplement your information as appropriate.

[Journalist] What is your position on possible new Chinese nuclear tests?

[Rummelhardt] You know our position on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: We favor the zero option, which means a ban on all nuclear tests and explosions. Moreover, we are in favor of a swift conclusion to the work carried out by the UN Disarmament Commission in Geneva on an agreement banning all nuclear tests.

[Journalist] Are you in favor of a swift adoption by the Human Rights Commission in Geneva of a resolution on human rights?

[Rummelhardt] The minister was questioned on that issue two days ago in the National Assembly: He indicated that the discussions are going on at the EU level and that results are expected in a few days.

[Journalist] Could such a resolution be discussed prior to Mr. Li Peng's visit?

[Rummelhardt] We do not set the agenda of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Middle East

[Journalist] Do you have any comment on the Israel's decision to postpone its withdrawal from Hebron?

[Rummelhardt] There is a meeting of high-level officials in Washington on the follow-up to Sharm-al-Shaykh, the peacemakers' summit. France is represented by Mr. Denis Bauchard. All those issues will be examined.

I outlined the French position on Monday [25 March] which had been presented by the head of state and the foreign minister at the Sharm-al-Shaykh meeting. We

assert that terrorism must be combated relentlessly by all peace-minded governments. The causes of terrorism must be fought, too; that is the purpose of the Washington meeting and what will result from it.

We are anxious that all the parties involved should respect the commitments they have made. The parties must continue to implement the commitments they have made: the Hebron redeployment which you referred to, the release of prisoners, the start of the negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories, but also the abolition or the modification of the PLO Charter. All these issues are part of the commitments made in the framework of the peace agreements. The issues of the commitments made must be examined in the light of the follow-up to the Sharm-al-Shaykh meeting as well as of the important issue of the fight against terrorism.

[Journalist] What about the U.S.-French dispute over the Washington meeting?

[Rummelhardt] I cannot add anything since the high-level officials' meeting opens in Washington in a few hours.

[Journalist] Does the participation of France in this meeting mean that the European proposals have been adopted?

[Rummelhardt] I refer you to the Washington meeting which opens in a few hours.

[Journalist] Do you have any comments on the arrest of Palestinians in Cisjordania?

[Rummelhardt] I have no comments others than what I have just told you. I referred a few minutes ago to the high-level officials' meeting in Washington which, in our opinion, should deal with issues such as the fight against terrorism, the commitments to be made by the parties involved, international cooperation against terrorism, and the peace process.

Moreover, there is also the issue of the security of the state of Israel, of the fight against terrorism, and the necessity to carry on the peace process. I told you on Monday what the French expectations were as far as the follow-up to Sharm-al-Shaykh is concerned.

[Journalist] What about the French proposals for safeguarding the peace process?

[Rummelhardt] We consulted with our European partners early this week through the so-called COREU [Telex Network of European Correspondents]. These consultations have yielded rather positive results. [passage omitted]

France: Franco-German Economic Council Meeting Detailed

BR2703160896 Paris LES ECHOS in French
27 Mar 96 p 5

[Article by Jean-Michel Lamy: "Jean Arthuis and Theo Waigel Adjust Their Positions for the Euro in 1999"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The French-German Economic and Financial Council, which met yesterday in Laval (Mayenne), will be remembered as a rather agreeable step along the way to a single currency. Because both the Bundesbank president and the French National Bank governor are convinced that current interest rates, which are "very low or low," constitute a favorable environment for the resumption of growth. German Finance Minister Theo Waigel even said: "We are sure that Germany is not heading for a recession." Also because Paris and Bonn agree on the main lines of the exchange mechanism to be established between the countries with a single currency and those without it.

Budgetary Pact

This position is right in line with [President] Jacques Chirac's recommendations. As [Economy and Finance Minister] Jean Arthuis indicated in Laval yesterday, the future exchange mechanism will provide for "interventions by the European Central Bank, with the euro serving as a reference point consolidating the convergence mechanisms." But this largely consensual framework resolves nothing. France wants a system that imposes constraints on countries practicing competitive devaluation. The United Kingdom wants nothing to do with this, and the details regarding sanctions are gaining far from unanimous approval. Arthuis called mainly for transfers of European funds to be made conditional in some way. Anyway, Brussels emphasized, only the future European Central Bank (ECB) will have the authority to introduce the renewed EMS [European Monetary System]. The main merit of the meeting in Laval was to show the French-German desire to impose common degrees of [budgetary] discipline.

Evidence of this is Paris's determination to bring down France's budget deficits while at the same time guaranteeing social cohesion. In a system centered around the euro, a budgetary stability pact will serve as a regulator. In this respect the German minister gave his assurance that "automatic sanctions" would provide the best guarantee of respect for budgetary discipline. Even if this was only with a view to avoiding the scenario of having to convene a body to condemn the guilty party. This remains a delicate issue, even though Arthuis said: "We agree on the objectives and the principles involved." But watch out for the ways in which they are

implemented! Thus the role of a political counterweight between the ECOFIN [EU Council of Economic and Finance Ministers] and the ECB remains to be defined. And there are plenty of options between the French-style economic government and a simple coordinating role as favored by the Germans.

Furthermore, Waigel noted that a postponement of the single currency could cause tension on the exchange markets. And [Bundesbank President] Hans Tietmeyer underlined that he could not find any arguments to justify pushing back the schedule: "We have two years ahead of us and all the countries concerned can try and fulfill the criteria." He then added: "There is no minimum quorum required in 1999, unlike in 1997." The Bundesbank president believes that the turbulence on the exchange markets is over. Moreover he expects the dollar to rise and does not believe that there is need to anticipate any surge in interest rates, which can only help to ease the atmosphere. The French and German ministers also mentioned the risks of unfair competition within the Union via areas with favorable tax structures. The single currency will also require real harmonization at this level. Major differences remain between the levels of taxation, and the taxation of savings in particular. In Laval the technical work has made progress. But the political validation of the process will depend on Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac.

France: Millon Urges 'Increased Cooperation' in EU Defense

BR2803143896 Paris LE FIGARO in French
28 Mar 96 p 4

[Report signed "P.D.": "Paris Proposes 'Increased Cooperation'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The most important mission of a political Europe is defense." On the eve of the Turin Intergovernmental Conference France was expecting the review of the Treaty on EU to state its "general competence" to rule on issues of defense and security. Defense Minister Charles Millon said yesterday: "We want the legitimacy of the European Council in these areas to be recognized."

Opening the colloquium organized by Pierre Lellouche, Rally for the Republic deputy, on the subject of "What defense for France in the post Cold War?" Charles Millon stressed that the EU must be "built on Atlantic solidarity." He continued: "An ambitious European defense policy cannot be dissociated from a clear policy with regard to NATO. On the other hand, the renewal of NATO, to have any real meaning, must lead to the creation of a 'European pillar.'"

enhance cooperation among the countries concerned. "However, this should in no way encroach on the independence of the European central bank." It was more an issue of improving cooperation among finance ministers.

Arthuis sees his optimism about fulfilling Maastricht strengthened by the "first signs of an economic upturn" west of the Rhine. He said that the economy would finally pick up in the second half of the year. Economic growth should amount to between 2.5 percent and 3

percent by the end of the year. Arthuis did not want to discuss whether France could also qualify for EMU with a deficit of 3.4 percent, as was stated in a Deutsche Bank study. He said that "those who begin to have doubts about their ability to cut deficits are reluctant to apply the measures that are necessary to achieve the goal." That would be "counterproductive," as there would be an immediate reaction from the financial markets that "might jeopardize historically low interest rate levels."

Turkey: Assembly Extends Poised Hammer by 3 Months

TA2803202196 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Discussing the government petition for the extension of the Poised Hammer mandate by another three months, Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz told the Turkish Grand National Assembly [TGNA] today that certain circles blame Operation Provide Comfort for the economic difficulties being encountered in southeastern Anatolia and northern Iraq. That is not true, he said.

[Begin Yilmaz recording] The reason for the difficulties is UN Security Council Resolution 661, which imposed an embargo on Iraq. Work is being done at the United Nations to partially lift the embargo. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Expressing the views of the Welfare Party [RP] group, Diyarbakir Deputy Omer Vehbi Hatipoglu said the decision the Assembly will reach on this issue will be a test for history. He stressed that the RP displayed a very clear attitude on this issue from the very start and that there have not been any changes in its stand. Hatipoglu said the RP listens to Anatolia, not to the outside.

Speaking on behalf of the Democratic Left Party [DSP], party leader Bulent Ecevit said the DSP wants a formula that definitely ends Iraq's division, brings full guarantees to the people living in northern Iraq, and makes Turkey's border security unassailable. He said that if the government petition is amended along these lines, the DSP believes that it will be appropriate to give the government a chance until it draws up a new plan.

Van Deputy Mahmut Yilbas spoke on behalf of the True Path Party [DYP]. He said that Poised Hammer constitutes an international deterrence against the Baghdad administration for the security of those living in northern Iraq. Yilbas stressed that none of the reasons that made the presence of this force necessary have disappeared yet. He said that the DYP does not believe that Turkey's sovereignty rights are hurt by the Poised Hammer, adding that its mandate can be terminated the minute the TGNA decides to do so.

Speaking on behalf of the Republican People's Party [CHP] group, Ankara Deputy Ali Dincer charged that Poised Hammer is incompatible with Turkey's national interests and puts Turkey in a difficult position. He alleged that all those who said yes to Poised Hammer so far have done so for lack of choice. He pointed out that an authority vacuum was created in northern Iraq with the arrival of this force. Dincer concluded by saying

that the CHP will vote against the petition to extend the Poised Hammer mandate.

Expressing the views of the Motherland Party group, Balikesir Deputy Safa Giray pointed out that it was necessary to organize the region following the great wave of emigration during and after the Gulf war. He recalled that various complaints and suspicions have been voiced in connection with Poised Hammer but that the issue must not be derailed. He stated that the first two Provide Comfort Operations were solely humanitarian in their aims but that the operation later assumed a political aim. He noted that in parallel with the changes that occurred in time a change in the force is necessary.

After personal speeches by Recep Kiris, Great Unity Party Kayseri deputy, and by RP Istanbul Deputy Mustafa Bas, the TGNA approved an amendment to the prime minister's petition in line with the motion submitted by DSP leader Ecevit and his colleagues. Accordingly, the petition says that the practices so far and the division in Iraq did not provide comfort to those living in northern Iraq or to Turkey. It says that benefiting from the authority vacuum in the region, the terrorist organization has been able to infiltrate into Turkey en masse and that, therefore, the separatist terrorist activities have escalated. The amended petition also says that the authority vacuum has also resulted in the oppression of the regional people and in their being extensively hurt by internal clashes. It places the condition that the Council of Ministers use this extension period to take determined and effective initiatives to reunify Iraq; to set effective guidelines to safeguard the peace, security, and human rights of the Iraqi people of Kurdish and Turkoman origin during this reunification period; and to fully ensure Turkey's border security.

The prime minister's petition was then put to an open vote and was approved. TGNA Deputy Speaker Uluc Gurkan said:

[Begin Gurkan recording] Here are the results of the open vote on the prime minister's petition to allow the extension of the multinational force deployed in our country by three months as of 31 March 1996 in line with Article 92 of the Constitution: Number of deputies who voted—522; in favor—243; against—199; abstentions—76; invalid votes—4. The petition has thus been approved. May it be auspicious. [end recording]

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